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THE
LION KING

A NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

5



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Grapevine

Hi there!

So many brilliant stories are pouring in from our ace jungle reporters that I'm splitting them into good gnus and bad gnus. Your jokes, letters and pictures are flooding in as well. The first will be in the Grapevine, soon. You could be famous!

Kim

Write to Kim at
The Lion King,
PO Box 1,
Hartings, TN55 4TB.



SURVIVAL LESSONS

Californian condors are taking a tough training programme. Birds reared in captivity have to learn to avoid dangers, such as power lines and poles, when they are released into the wild. They begin as soon as they hatch, and they are not set free until they've passed a test. The training was started after a number of birds released into the wild were killed flying into electric lines.

DUST DEVIL

A huge column of spinning dust has been spotted over the Namib desert. Gnaiff identified it as a dust devil – a cloud of dust sucked up into the air by a mini whirlwind. Dust devils start when a patch of air just above the desert sand gets hotter than the air round it. It begins to rise and spin, sucking up dust and sand like a giant vacuum cleaner.



NATURE NEWS

Mad glorious mad. Our environment and conservation correspondent totally immerses herself in her subject. Trust Hippo to keep you up-to-date with changes in the world of nature.



NEWSROUND

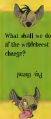
If there's news from Africa to be had, you can always trust Newley to check it out. Night and day she comes swinging through the trees with the hottest stories.



MISS WORLD LONG LEGS

An African beetle has taken the Miss Insect World Long Legs title. The excited winner is Miss Stenocera Phalerium, of the Namib Desert. For her body length she has the longest legs of any insect. "I'm famous! I'm a star!" screamed Stenocera. "Just call me Gni – it rhymes with star!" Miss Phalerium's mum said: "Long legs run in the family. They hold our bodies above the hot gravel so we don't get scorched."

There are 14 lions in the pages of this magazine. Can you find them?



What shall we do if the wildbeest charge?

By Gnaiff

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SIMBA'S WORLD
Hyenas

One good turn
Part 2



BAFIKI REMEMBERS

The sun and the moon



Waterlilies
and frogs



East Africa



Rafiki draws



Get Drawing

Baby Simba

FREE IN PART 6

Add a super savannah waterhole play scene and a scary snarling Scar sticker to Simba's World.



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SIMBA'S WORLD

HYENAS HAVE REALLY STRONG JAWS AND TEETH. THEY CAN CUT THROUGH THE TOUGHEST PARTS OF CARCASSES THAT OTHER ANIMALS CAN'T TACKLE! THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS THEY'RE SUCH SUCCESSFUL PREDATORS AND SCAVENGERS.

Hyenas

There are three kinds of hyena in Africa, the spotted, striped and brown. The spotted hyena is the biggest and most powerful and most of its food comes from animals that it kills itself. It is about the size of an Alsatian dog. Its big head has large, rounded ears that stick up, a powerful muzzle and a crest of raised hairs that run from the top to its shoulders. It has strong front legs, a sloping back and a tail of long black hairs. Its coat is short, with dark spots on its body and legs.

Because it is such a successful hunter and scavenger, it can live in many habitats, from open grasslands to desert.

Spotted hyenas live together in packs of between about 10 and 100. Members mark their territory by spraying with urine and by leaving trails of a smelly paste, from a gland under the tail, on plant stems.

Hyenas' sense of smell is so acute that they can recognize each other by scent.

▼ FAMILY SMELLS
When members of a hyena pack meet they sniff and lick each other's faces, necks and hind parts.



▼ HOME GUARD
Each pack guards its own territory and patrols it regularly.

They sniff the ground much of the time – from a single patch of urine they can tell what type of animal produced it and when. If the patch was left by a member of the hyena's pack, it can tell which member it was.

Hyenas communicate with each other by stuffing, by suppling with their bodies and by calling. Junior members of a pack will crouch low to show that they know their place. Greeting ceremonies can last some time. If the hyenas are setting off to hunt they also make howling screams, as if they are stirring each other up for action. When they are apart, spotted hyenas call to each other with a

series of whoops and yells – screams have recorded up to 17 different sounds. They whoop loudly and ockle at kills, to announce to other animals that the carcass belongs to them. Mothers make a different whoop to call up their young when they return to the nursery den.

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FACT FILE

SPOTTED HYENA

Crocuta crocuta

SIZE: The head and body is 120-180cm long; tail about 33cm.

RANGE: Dry, rocky areas, grasslands and scrub areas from south of the Sahara to Mozambique. Not found in dense forests.

DIET: Mainly eats other mammals that weigh at least 20kg, particularly grazers like wildebeest and rebus.

YOUNG: Usually 2

LIFESPAN: 25 years in the wild.



REARING TWINS

Most female spotted hyenas give birth to two cubs in a burrow. Hyenas are the only mammals in the world that can see, walk and have well-developed milk and incisor teeth as soon as they are born. A new-born cub has brown, woolly fur and the first thing it often does is grab its twin by the neck and shake it aggressively. Cubs of the same sex fight more, and the mother often has to break up the squabbles.

At first, the cubs are kept apart from the rest of the pack but after a few weeks the mother brings them to join the other pack youngsters in a shared underground den. The only food they get for the first eight months is their mother's milk. She has to eat as much food as she can to supply them with enough milk. Some mothers travel as far as 6,000km in a year, going out with the pack on hunting trips and then returning to feed the cubs. By the time they are a year old, the cubs have spotted coats like their parents and they can feed themselves.

WOW!

Spotted hyenas sometimes hunt on their own. One was recorded chasing and catching an adult wildebeest that weighed about 170kg – that's nearly three times the hyena's weight.

▼ THE OUTSIDE WORLD
Spotted hyena cubs leave their burrows for the first time when they are two weeks old. The mother protects them against male hyenas who are not related to them, and against other predators like lions.



© Ken Taylor

A CHEWY MEAL

Nearly all of the spotted hyena's diet is meat but they have also been seen eating bicycle saddles and old shoes.



SIMBA RAWS

When dogs and wolves howl they throw their heads back but when hyenas howl they point their noses towards the ground.

FRIENDS AND RELATIONS

Brown hyenas are found in southern Africa while striped hyenas live in north and east Africa. Brown and striped hyenas don't ever meet in the wild but both of them share their habitats with spotted hyenas.

Both kinds have a more varied diet than the spotted relations. They eat insects, small animals, eggs and even fruits and vegetables. They mainly scavenge on their own and spend more time searching for food than spotted hyenas do. The rare brown hyena can roam over 50km a night.

The adults of both families bring back food to their young. One brown hyena was tracked dragging a heavy carcass for a distance of 15km to its young in the den.

► FRUIT JUICE

Brown hyenas in the Kalahari desert get water from eating tamarina melons.



◀ STRONG GRIP

The striped hyena's powerful jaw, neck and shoulders help it to carry huge bits of carcass to its young.

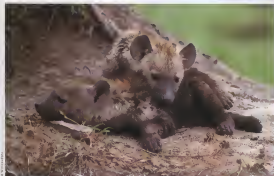
PACK KILLS

Spotted hyenas usually rest or sleep during the day in burrows, long grass or in gaps between rocks. As darkness falls they start calling to each other as they gather for the evening hunt.

If the hyenas smell a dead or dying animal that has been caught by another predator they will chase away the owner and help themselves. But most of the time they kill their own food, hunting together in a pack. When they catch up with the prey, they grab it by the legs or side and hang on until the animal drops to the ground. Then they quickly rip it apart and share the pieces, leaving no pickings for any of the other large carnivores.

Not only can their teeth cut through the thickest of hides, they also have a lot of acid in their stomachs which copes with most of what they swallow. Only undigested bits of bone, hair, hoof and horn are coughed up as pellets afterwards.

Illustration: Patrick Macdonald



© Ken Taylor

Timon was the first to wake next morning. "Breakfast coming up!" he cried, scolding off. He returned with a bunch of colourful bugs and grubs.

Pumbaa and Simba woke to the sounds of Timon's breakfast preparations.

"If it wasn't for you, Simba,"

remarked Timon, as he nibbled on some juicy red beetles. "I'd have been hyena lunch yesterday."

Simba looked embarrassed. "Forget it! It was nothing!"

"If it wasn't for you..." Timon went on through

a mouth stuffed full of bugs.

"Please, forget it," Simba looked up at the sun. "It's already getting warm," he said, changing the subject.

"Let's go back into the jungle," said Timon. "It's cooler and safer, without any horrible hyenas in there."

Simba stretched lazily and Pumbaa slowly got up.

"Come on," said Timon as he hurried them along. He did not want to risk another encounter with the four-legged scavengers.

They set off towards the safety of the jungle. "It's easier to get a good feed in there," said Pumbaa, who was already hungry. "Why do you like the grasslands, Simba? There are so many dangers, and so few places to hide."

"It's what I know... or rather, it's what I knew," Simba hung his head sadly. "Sometimes I wish..."

"Wish what?" asked Timon curiously.

"Nothing," Simba shook his mane and carried on.

They soon reached the safety of the jungle and the shade of the trees.

"Let's go for a swim," Pumbaa

suggested, thinking of cool mud.

"I don't," Simba replied.

"Don't what?" Timon looked surprised.

"Swim," Simba looked away. "I don't swim."

"Lions! Kings of the jungle! Don't swim!" laughed Timon.

"Look, I don't, I never learnt."

Simba tried to explain. "Where do you swim on the plains? In the dust? We drink water, we don't play in it."

"It's cool, Simba," Pumbaa said, helpfully. "It's cool, refreshing, and you get lovely and wet. Best of all, it's a hyena-free zone."

The lion smiled at his friend. They continued on their jaunt, and soon reached a small clearing where the sun shone brightly on to the jungle floor. Simba felt the heat beating down on his fur.

"Maybe it's not such a bad idea. If Timon can do it..." Simba sauntered down the slope towards the sparkling water. Timon and Pumbaa followed behind him. Standing on a smooth rock, Simba peered down at the

water rushing past in a small gully below him. It looked horribly fast.

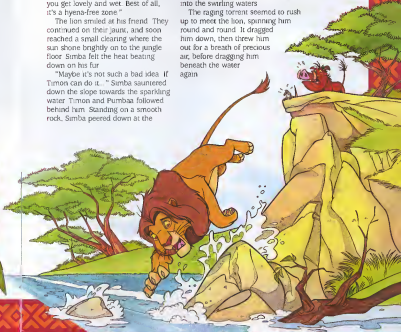
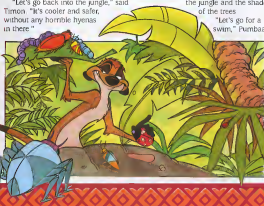
"I think I'd rather be in the shade!" Simba decided. As he started to turn round he heard Timon yell.

"Not! Not there! It's not safe to swim there..."

"I'm not stupid..." Simba started to say, but as he turned away, he slipped. His claws scrambled helplessly against the wet rock. "Aaargh!"

Timon and Pumbaa looked in horror as they saw their friend slip into the swirling waters.

The raging torrent seemed to rush up to meet the lion, spinning him round and round. It dragged him down, then threw him out for a breath of precious air, before dragging him beneath the water again.



Pumbaa and Timon stared at Simba as he thrashed about like a helpless kitten in the raging river.

"There's a waterfall round the river bend," Timon remembered. "Come on, Pumbaa!" He leapt on to the warthog's back and they raced to catch up with Simba. They ran, stumbling, along the river bank, darting worried glances into the river below.

"Hurry, can't you!" cried Timon.

"I'm going as fast as my hooves will trot," panted Pumbaa as he thundered through the trees, tripping and nearly falling over small logs and roots.

The little meerkat looked about him. He only had a split second to save his drowning friend.

"Up there!" Timon shouted. "Left! Turn left!"

"I'm lefting! I'm lefting!" Pumbaa puffed back.

Running up a small rocky outcrop, they reached a point where they could look back up the river. They could see Simba's head bobbing along in the swirling waters.

"We need that!" Timon pointed to a vine looped above their heads.

"I can't reach!" Pumbaa shouted in desperation. Timon ran back along the warthog's back, and reached for the great vine.

He swung it back into the warthog's mouth. "Pull!"

Pumbaa pulled while the little meerkat clung with all his might to

the vine. Somehow they managed to get the end of the vine free.

Timon kept hold of the vine while Pumbaa backed up the rock towards the river. When they reached the edge, Timon was still holding the vine as the end hung dangerously over the treacherous river. "What am I d-d-doing?" he wailed as his teeth chattered in fear. He took a deep breath, gripped the vine and pushed off from Pumbaa's back. The vine swung across the river to the opposite bank.

As he swung back, Timon shouted to Simba. "Grab it! Grab hold!" Timon climbed up a little way, to leave some room on the vine for his friend's grip.

Simba reached up. At first the vine slipped through his paws.

Timon shut his eyes tightly. Time stood still. The birds seemed to stop singing and the bugs stopped buzzing.

Simba again reached for Timon's vine. This time it wrapped around his paw. Slowly, the vine swung back to the shore and Simba clambered on to the bank. As Simba landed he let go of the vine and Timon was taken back across the river.

When the vine swung back towards the bank, Pumbaa shouted, "Let go! Let go! I'll catch you!"

Shutting his eyes, Timon let go of the vine and fell with a thump on to Pumbaa's back.

Simba looked on in disbelief. He shook himself, sending a spray of

water over his two friends. He was sulk pouting and puffing and the sound of the waterfall nearby rumbled in his ears.

"Now you know why I don't swim," he smiled weakly.

"That was a close shave. Thank you, Timon, you saved my life."

Timon, for once, was almost lost for words.

"Well, from one 'kat' to another - think nothing of it."

NEXT WEEK: THE ELEPHANTS' GRAVEYARD



PUZZLES

RAFIKI'S PUZZLING PICTURES

Rafiki keeps his spells and sketches a secret. On the bark of a tree he has drawn just enough of some animals to remind him which they are. Can you work them out – the mixed-up names will give you a clue. How many bananas are hidden in the picture? And how many leaves can you count?



MAGIC DRINK

Rafiki has drawn a spell. It lists things he needs to make a magic drink. Use the clues to fill in the gaps. The last letter of each word is the first of the next one.

- 1 Animal that flies at night.
- 2 Goes in your mouth.
- 3 Covers your head.
- 4 Flies in the ground.
- 5 Insect with 8 legs.
- 6 Falls from the sky.



FRUIT RINGS

Rafiki has drawn a ring around some fruit on the ground. He throws 2 more rings so that each fruit is separated from the others. Can you draw in the other two rings?



TREE BARK MAZE

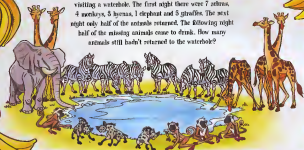
The ant wants to get to the top of the tree. The ridges in the bark are difficult to climb over, can you find a way between them?



MORE PUZZLES

RAFIKI'S RIDDLE

From the branches of a tree Rafiki watched the animals visiting a waterhole. The first night there were 7 antelopes, 4 meerkats, 5 hyenas, 1 elephant and 5 giraffes. The next night only half of the animals returned. The following night half of the missing animals came to drink. How many animals still hadn't returned to the waterhole?



COLOUR MIXING

Rafiki uses colours made from insects, plants, and ground-up stones to paint with. He finds he only needs three colours, red, yellow and blue, the rest he can mix up from these three. Can you work out which colours he can make using these combinations?

RULE P



YELLOW PERIL

These banana bunches look tempting - but beware! How many poisonous spiders are hiding in the fruit?



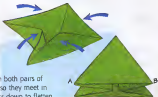
Bunga: "What waterhole does he visit?"
Rafiki: "A Yarn-hole!"



Origami Water Ball



1 For a 5.5cm ball, take a square of paper 21cm x 21cm. Fold it diagonally across both the corners.



2 Now push in both pairs of opposite sides so they meet in the centre. Press down to flatten the folds.



3 Fold points A and B up to the top point of the triangle. Flatten down the new folds.



4 Fold in the two side points of the square to the centre line. Flatten down the new folds.



5 Fold down the two points A and B so meet the points of the side triangles.



6 Hold the corners you have just made and push them right into the pockets of the triangles, as shown. Flatten down the folds.



7 Turn over your paper structure and repeat steps 3 to 6. It should now look like this.



8 Blow hard into the hole at the lower end of the paper shape. The ball will inflate like magic!



The Lilypond Frog Game

These pretty lilies and lilyponds are easy to make. Add some frogs and you can play a great game with them!

- 1** From coloured paper, cut two circles about 15cm wide, and one 9cm wide. Draw five petal shapes on each one.

- 2** Cut round the petals. Curve them inwards by rolling each petal round a pencil.

- 3** Put a small blob of glue in the centre of both big circles. Put them inside each other with the small one on top. Press down on the centre until the glue sets.

- 4** Cut a 6cm square of yellow paper. Fold it in half and cut it into a fringe.

- 5** Roll up the fringe and secure it with tape. Bend over the end and tape it to the flower's centre. Repeat steps 1 to 5 for lots of lilies!

YOU WILL NEED

cereal box card
thick coloured or painted paper
pencil
scissors
poster paints
glue

- 6** For lilyponds, cut lots of different sized circles from thin card. The biggest should be about 15cm wide. Refit them light green, with dark veins on the upper side.

- 7** Snip lots of 1cm cuts all round the edges of the leaves. Turn up the edges.

- 8** For the frogs, make three tiny origami balls. Use 8cm squares of this green paper. For eyes, cut six yellow paper dots, and add a black felt-tip centre. Glue two on each frog. Cut and glue on paper mouths.

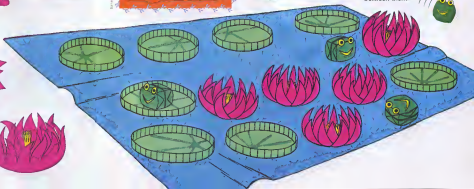
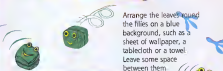
HOW TO PLAY

Players stand by a marker spot (about 15m from the lilypond) and take turns to throw all three frogs, trying to get them to land in the lilies or lilyponds. Score 1 for a lilypond goal and 5 for a waterlily. The player with the highest score at the end of the game is the winner. To make the game harder, move the throwing line further away, or score only if your frog lands in a waterlily!

Arrange the leaves round the lilies on a blue background, such as a sheet of wallpaper, a tablecloth or a towel. Leave some space between them.



Illustrations by Anna Murray



Get Drawing



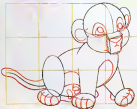
Baby Simba



1 Draw a circle for the head and a long curved line. Then draw two ovals on this line for the chest and body. Make your lines light so you can rub them out easily later.



2 Divide the head circle carefully with two curved lines A and B. (Notice that line A doesn't divide the circle equally - you can see more of the left side.) Now draw a box for the muzzle. The middle of the box's top corner where A and B meet. Fill out the cheeks and add ears. Draw straight lines for the front legs and ovals for the back leg and the three paws.



3 Carefully draw Simba's features - smooth curves in the ears, round the eyes with ovals for the pupils, and a flattened heart-shape for the nose. Add more curves for the chin and then a neat little upside down Y for a mouth. Add his toes, the other foot with its pads and his tail. Then draw a line round his chest and belly.



4 Carefully rub out any lines you don't want. To finish your drawing, add furry outlines, spots and curves for the outsides of the legs. Draw lines at the corners of the eyes and across the nose. Fill in the eyes, leaving little white spots for the reflections and there's your baby Simba.



Get Making





EAST AFRICA

THIS PART OF AFRICA STRETCHES NORTH FROM THE ZAMBEZI RIVER TO LAKE TURKANA. THE COAST ON THE EAST IS LAPPED BY THE WARM WATERS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND ON THE WESTERN EDGE THERE IS THE LONG LINE OF THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY.

A high rolling plain called a plateau fills most of east Africa. It rises from a strip of low land along the Indian Ocean and reaches as far as the mountains and troughs of the Great Rift Valley.



The sausage tree's weird fruits can be as long as your arm and they weigh as much as seven bags of sugar.

The climate is warm and dry with one or two short rainy seasons.

The most important plants on the plains are grasses. They provide food for millions of grazing animals and shelter for insects, snakes and lizards. In the dry season, their seeds attract flocks of seed-eating birds.

Some of the more northerly parts of Kenya are so dry they are almost desert. But where rainfall is higher, there are thorny bushes scattered around, and in other parts flat-topped acacia trees cast patches of shade.

Here and there on the plains are strange piles of rocks called kopjes (see pages 10-11). They're great lookout places - and perfect for an afternoon snooze.



"East Africa has lots of national parks which are special areas for animals."

"Makes up for all the places where animals can't go!"

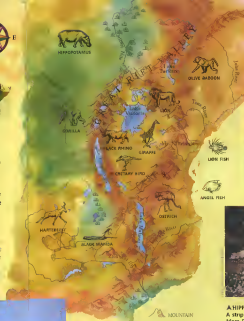
STICK TOGETHER
These quail birds are off to drink at a waterhole. They fly in groups for protection - some flocks contain a million birds. When dusk falls they crowd on to the branches of a tree. Sometimes the tree collapses under their weight!

In wetter places trees grow more closely together, making a roof overhead. This is called woodland. Some trees have very strange names, like the sausage tree and yellow-barked fever tree. Grazing animals that dislike the searing hot mudday sun stay in their shade until the cool of the evening.

Lake Victoria is Africa's largest lake. It is 69,400 sq km - over half the size of England. It even has its own weather. Some nights beetens from the land set off thunderstorms. It pours with rain over the lake - but not on the land!



A WATER SHORTAGE
The north-east is almost desert. Here zebra, a gazelle and an antelope gather at a waterhole that's almost dried up.



Acacia trees make strange shapes in dry grassland areas.



A LAKE LIFE
East Africa has thousands of lakes of all sizes and shapes. The birds nesting in the dead trees are white-necked cormorants.

A HIPPO HEAVEN
A strip of forest grows by the Mara River and hippos swim in the warm water. Beyond the river, the land is bare and dry.



BOWL OF GRASS
The Ngongoro Center is a huge bowl. It appeared thousands of years ago when a volcano collapsed in on itself. Now it contains rich grasslands.



"Kenya believe this mountain? What mook said climb it? It's killing me, man."

"It's Kilimanjaro actually. It's the tallest mountain in all of Africa."



The rolling plains of east Africa are dotted with mountain peaks. The highest – which are also the highest in the whole of Africa – are Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya. They are dead volcanoes, which means they don't erupt any more.

Another old volcano is Mount Elgon. It has salt caves in the side which attract elephants with a savoury tooth – or tusk!

The lower slopes of many of the mountains are covered with thick forest. The trees can grow here because more rain falls on the mountains than on the hot grasslands that surround them. This is because air cools when it rises. Air travelling over the plains has to rise when it reaches the mountains and so it cools down. The air carries water vapour. If the water vapour cools down enough it becomes rain.

The eastern slopes of east Africa's mountains are usually the wettest of all, because the rain-bearing winds blow from the Indian Ocean.



A AFRICAN ICE
The tallest peaks in the Mountains of the Moon are covered in snow all year round.



In mountain forests, the glory fly hovers on to its neighbour to get a leg-up.



The upper mountain slopes are so cold that the tree groundsel uses its dead leaves like a coat to keep warm.



4 GREEN HILLS
Forest covers the warm, wet lower slopes of the mountains. These are the Aberdares in Kenya.

A COLD COMFORT
High up on Mount Kenya, plants grow in fat cushion shapes. The cushions trap warm air, so they can survive frosty nights.



Elephants visit caves in Mount Elgon to gorge out salt with their tusks.

RAFIKI REMEMBERS SUN AND MOON



"YOU SEE THE PALE CRESCENT MOON HIGH UP IN THE NIGHT SKY? WELL, ONCE HE WAS AS BRIGHT AS THE SUN. SHALL I TELL YOU HOW HE LOST HIS COLOUR?"

When the world was young, Sun and Moon both shone as brightly as each other. The two of them were good friends and often did things together.

One day Sun said to Moon, "Why don't we take our families out for the day? We could go to the river and have a swim." Moon thought this was a good idea. When they arrived at the bank, Sun suggested that he and his family bathe round a bend in the river. "Why don't you wait for us to get in. As soon as the water starts to bubble, you will know that we are in the river and then you can get in." Moon agreed.

However, as soon as they had vanished

from sight, Sun and his family made a fire and flung burning branches into the river. Soon the water was bubbling and seething. When Moon saw this, he and his family entered the water.

All at once, there was a huge cloud of steam. Moon and his family splashed around happily until they'd had enough. Then they climbed out of the water. But when Moon looked at himself, he saw that he was no longer bright yellow. All the bright colour and heat had drained out of him – he was a pale shadow of his former self.

When Sun saw his friend, he laughed until he cried. Then, wiping his eyes, he said to Moon, "Well, I am certainly the brightest thing round here!"



Cut out the
frieze. Cut along
the solid lines to
make slots F and
G. Fold the frieze
back along the
centre fold and fit
F and G into the
outer two slots on
the Pride Rock
folder free with
issue 1

**ANIMAL
FRIEZE**

